

**Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River Plan
Public Meetings- Flagstaff, Camp Verde, and Pine, Arizona
February 2019**

Public Meeting Overview:

In February of 2019, the Coconino and Tonto National Forests hosted three public meetings in the communities of Pine, Camp Verde and Flagstaff, AZ. The primary goal was to gather public input on the Fossil Creek Draft Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) and the Alternatives within the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). There were approximately 150 participants at all meetings with the most participation in Pine, AZ (80-100) followed by even numbers in Camp Verde and Flagstaff (30-40). A list of meeting participants who signed in can be found at the end of this document. All meetings were facilitated by Southwest Decision Resources, a Flagstaff- based facilitation company.



The structure of the meetings was as follows:

AGENDA

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 5:30-5:45PM | Open House <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chance for people to familiarize themselves with Fossil Creek Alternatives being considered, and elements of the Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) |
| 5:45-5:50PM | Welcome <i>Coconino National Forest Leadership</i> <i>Laura Jo West, Forest Supervisor</i> <i>Nicole Branton, Red Rock District Ranger, and/or Debbie Cress, Payson District Ranger</i> |
| 5:50-5:55PM | Agenda Review and Introductions <i>Andi Rogers, Southwest Decision Resources</i> |
| 5:55-6:25PM | Fossil Creek Draft EIS/CRMP Presentation – <i>Marcos Roybal, Fossil Creek Project Coordinator, and Elizabeth Munding, NEPA planner</i> |
| 6:25-7:00PM | Fossil Creek Stations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructions for interactive stations• Participants will have the opportunity to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Gather information on the components of the alternatives and details of the draft CRMP○ Provide feedback on preferences, benefits and, identified trade-offs of alternative components |
| 7:00 PM | Adjourn |

The public meetings were originally to be held in late January, but were rescheduled because to the partial government shutdown. The Flagstaff meeting was rescheduled a second time because of inclement weather. The email list for the project was notified of all scheduling changes.

PowerPoint Presentation

Fossil Creek Planning Roadmap

Marcos Roybal – Fossil Creek Project Coordinator, Coconino National Forest

Elizabeth Munding – NEPA Planner, Coconino National Forest

(View slide presentation uploaded at <http://tinyurl.com/FossilCreekCRMP> under “Public Involvement”)

Forest Service staff presented a review of the Fossil Creek Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) and how Alternatives within the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) were developed.

Additionally, topics of interest (topics that consistently came up in comments) were highlighted with potential trade-offs to be considered in determining how these topics would be addressed in the decision.

Interactive Stations

After the presentation, the public visited interactive stations that detailed those topics of interest which included the alternatives, access, visitor capacity, monitoring and adaptive management, and river values protection. The posters can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/FossilCreekCRMP> under “Public Involvement”.

All participants were given a worksheet (see Appendix A) that aided them in understanding the complexities of the CRMP and the DEIS, as well as the access and recreation issues associated with them. The worksheet was intended to assist the public in developing well-thought out and constructive comments for the FS to consider. As such, many of the public participants took the worksheet with them at the end of the meetings and some turned them in for summarization. Due to inconsistent submission of worksheets during the public meetings, individual worksheets and comments are not summarized here, but can be found in the project record.

Summary of meeting dialogue (by location)

Pine, Arizona, Feb. 11, 2019 – 80-100 public attendees

Much of the discussion was related to Forest Road (FR) 708 and the Fossil Springs Trail. This included discussion regarding emergency access and safety of visitors in Fossil Creek. In addition, the cost associated with opening FR 708, and the time needed to acquire funds, was discussed. As it relates to public safety, there was much discussion about the implications of opening of 708 to public vehicles or emergency response vehicles (ambulance) only.

Camp Verde, AZ, Feb. 20, 2019 – 30-40 public attendees

There was some discussion related to safety and access (FR 708) at this meeting, but the majority participants engaged with Forest Service personnel individually at each of the interactive stations. Broad inclusion and participation of local tribes was discussed as it relates to the importance of Fossil Creek and its management moving forward.

Flagstaff, AZ, Feb 27, 2019 – 30-40 public attendees

Concerns and discussions from hikers and boaters were more prevalent at this meeting, as well as topics within the water policy framework (e.g. free flow, water rights, etc.). Most of the participants engaged with Forest Service personnel individually at each of the stations; these discussions related to the implications of the Alternatives.

Participant Worksheet
Please Comment on the draft Fossil Creek CRMP and DEIS

Fill out the comment form below and return it to us tonight or by **April 4, 2019**, one of the following ways.

Email your comments to comments-southwestern-coconino-redrock@fs.fed.us (include "Fossil Creek CRMP" in the subject line).

Mail

Coconino National Forest
Attention: Fossil Creek CRMP
P.O. Box 20429
Sedona, AZ 86341

Fax

(928) 203-7539

In person

Red Rock Ranger District Office
8375 State Route 179
Sedona, AZ 86351

To be most helpful to the planning process, comments should clearly articulate your concerns and contentions. For example, are there components of an alternative you believe will result in effects (good or bad) that are not adequately described in the DEIS? Be as specific as possible and support your statements with facts and references. Be solution-oriented. Do more than just provide an opinion or a vote. Please know that names, addresses, and comments become part of the public record for the project. Project documents can be found under the "Analysis" tab at <http://tinyurl.com/FossilCreekDocuments>.

Name _____

Date_____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Please comment here:

Fossil Creek's five action alternatives (Alts B-F) are all designed to protect and enhance free flow, water quality, and the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). Within the alternatives, however, are site-specific actions that vary. The following potential actions have been commonly discussed during the planning process and are associated with difficult trade-offs. Below are components from the action alternatives that would contribute to differing experiences. **Select one component from each section below that best represents your vision of what Fossil Creek should be.**

Forest Road (FR) 708 (please check one)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FR 708 closed portion to remain closed to motorized recreational use (Alternatives B, C & F) | <input type="checkbox"/> FR 708 closed portion to be opened to 62-inch wide vehicles for recreational use (Alternative E) | <input type="checkbox"/> FR 708 closed portion to be opened to all public vehicles for recreational use (Alternative D) |
|--|--|--|

**Emergency responders are currently allowed to use the closed portion of FR 708; this would continue in all alternatives

Fossil Springs Trail (please check one)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fossil Springs Trail open (Alternatives B & E) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fossil Springs Trail open to Mail Trail with no access to historic dam (Alternative C) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fossil Springs Trail closed and removed (Alternatives D & F) |
|--|--|--|

Visitor-Use (please check one)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fewer people in the corridor than today. Up to 640 people (Alternative B) | <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly less than today's visitor-use level. Up to 720 people (Alternative C) | <input type="checkbox"/> More people in the corridor than today. Up to 905-1510 people (Alternatives D & E) | <input type="checkbox"/> As many people in the corridor as want to visit. Up to 2,580 people (Alternative F) |
|--|---|---|--|

**Today's visitor use level is 810 people at one time

Parking (please check one)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Similar number and design of parking areas as today (Alternatives B, D & E) | <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated parking area near entrance with a walk/bike/horse emphasis into corridor (Alternatives C & F) |
|---|--|

Infrastructure/Facilities (please check one)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Similar number of recreation sites and facilities as today (Alternative B) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fewer recreation sites; some modified facilities (Alternative C) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fewer recreation sites but facility expansion at existing sites (Alternative D) | <input type="checkbox"/> Expanded facilities and more recreation sites (Alternatives E & F) |
|--|--|---|--|

Camping (please check one)

- ☐ Off-season camping in Middle Fossil (Alternative B) ☐ Year-round camping in Middle Fossil (Alternatives C, E & F) ☐ Off-season camping at Fossil Springs (Alternative F) ☐ Year-round camping at Fossil Springs (Alternatives B & E) ☐ No camping (Alternative D)

Over \rightarrow

1. Why did you choose what you did? How would your selections **positively** impact what your values about Fossil Creek?
2. What **negative** impacts may result from your choices? Would natural and cultural resources, recreation opportunities and experiences, or nearby communities be impacted? What financial challenges might result?
3. Positive and negative impacts relate to **trade-offs** in the CRMP decision. As the decision maker, how would you approach or resolve these trade-offs in the decision on the CRMP?

Participant List

Pine, Arizona, Feb. 11, 2019

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Rod Barnes | Pine Strawberry Fire Department/ Community Emergency Response |
| Team | |
| Barb Barnes | Community Emergency Response Team |
| Felicia French | State Senate Candidate |
| Bob Monnich | Rim Country 4 Wheelers |
| Charlie Conoder | Rim Country 4 Wheelers |
| Melven Palmer | Private Citizen |
| Jeffrey Lardner | Tonto Recreation Alliance (TRAL) |
| Ric Stephenson | Private Citizen |
| Ed Floyd | Search and Rescue |
| Rose Shaheen | Private Citizen |
| Greg Perkins | Private Citizen |
| Phyllis Perkins | Private Citizen |
| Jim Strogon | Trout Unlimited |
| Terry Krider | Private Citizen |
| Steve Saroka | Private Citizen |
| Joe Miller | Trout Unlimited |
| Ruth Suk | TRAL |
| Bill Suk | TRAL |
| Al McKinny | TRAL |
| Richard Asmussen | Private Citizen |
| Fern McKinney | TRAL |
| Barbara Summers | Private Citizen |
| Regina Dice Dottling | Private Citizen |
| Debbie Wright | Private Citizen |
| Jerry Wright | Private Citizen |
| Brent Reen | Private Citizen |
| Cheri Eberhardy | Private Citizen |
| Gene Eberhardy | Private Citizen |
| Katie Parks | Private Citizen |
| James Parks | Private Citizen |
| Shirley Dye | Gila County Republican Commission |
| Gene Pendergraft | The Rusty Pinecone |
| Kimberly Brennan | Strawberry Realty |
| Windy Quinton | Private Citizen |
| Jim Quinton | Private Citizen |
| Tom Brummer | Private Citizen |
| Nathan Rees | Trout Unlimited |
| Kelly Cavner | Private Citizen |
| Rebecca Blakesly | Private Citizen |
| John Blakesly | Private Citizen |
| Jeff Stringham | Search and Rescue |
| Ira Gibil | Search and rescue |
| Joe Oravec | Private Citizen |
| Mike Condit | Private Citizen |
| Albert Hunt | Private Citizen |
| Bobbie Sferrs | Private Citizen |
| Tom A. | Private Citizen |

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Guy Austin | TRAL |
| Ron Reiter | Private Citizen |
| Gary Russell | Private Citizen |
| Margie Russell | Private Citizen |
| Joan Backman | Pine Strawberry Fuels Reduction |
| Steve Backman | Private Citizen |
| Tom Leeuw | Private Citizen |
| Barb Leeuw | Private Citizen |
| Barbara Mossbarger | Private Citizen |
| Dan Mossbarger | Private Citizen |
| Milo LeBaron | Private Citizen |
| Evelyn Beck | Community Emergency Response Team |
| David Hamilton | Private Citizen |
| Linda Hamilton | Private Citizen |
| David Burkhart | Search and Rescue |
| Ricky Simmons | Pine Strawberry Lodge |
| Sherri Miller | Private Citizen |
| Cathy Smith | Private Citizen |
| Nancy Marsh | Private Citizen |
| Robert Marsh | Private Citizen |
| Mike Brandt | Private Citizen |
| Steve Sutton | Private Citizen |
| Norm Bule | Private Citizen |
| Don Smith | Pine Strawberry Fire Department |
| Mella Smith | Pine Strawberry Fire Department |
| Zach Graham | Pine Strawberry Fire Department |
| Thomas Cordara | Pine Strawberry Fire Department |
| Ron Smith | Private Citizen |
| Virginia Smith | Private Citizen |
| Joyce Mack | Private Citizen |
| Emma Johnson | Private Citizen |

Camp Verde, AZ, Feb. 20, 2019

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Thomasene Cardona | Yavapai-Apache Nation |
| Siera Russel | Yavapai-Apache Nation |
| Nancy Brown | USFS – Red Rock Ranger District |
| Elaine Nichols | Friends of the Verde River |
| Conor Flynn | Arizona public Service |
| Joy Collura | Yavapai resident |
| Fred Schoeffler | Private Citizen |
| Katherine Marquez | Private Citizen |
| Rich Martin | Yavapai County Sheriff's Office |
| Steven Pace | Private Citizen |
| Harry Hood | Private Citizen |
| Terry Keller | Copper Canyon Fire and Medical |
| Nancy Maple | Water Sentinels |
| Dave Maple | Water Sentinels |
| Lauren Sherwood | Private Citizen |
| Danielle Boulais | Private Citizen |
| Nadine Gutierrez | Private Citizen |
| Jacob Phelps | Private Citizen |

Mollie Peterson
Luis Carlos Pinzon
Rachel Hood
Nathan Rees

Private Citizen
Packraft Arizona
Private Citizen
Trout Unlimited

Flagstaff, AZ, Feb 27, 2019

Gary Morris
Steve Overby
Katie Gaul
Marty McMahon
Sierra Cottle
Chuck Crandell
Rafael Reyna
Carrie Bieging
Denielle Perry
Prestin Cooke
Joelle Sawaya
James Major
Riley Swanson
Katie Guetz
Mark Spinti
Nick Uehling
Shannon Molvin
Madeline Smith
Sarah Smith
Marina Aukon-Page
Sydney Throop
Kathleen Satterfield
Kelly Bessem
Chris Kocay
Linda Jalbert
Bennett Chums
Damian Bedreirz
David Spence
Joseph Shannon

Pine-Strawberry Fire District
USFS - Rocky Mountain Research Station
Northern Arizona University
USFS
Northern Arizona University
Private Citizen
Private Citizen
Private Citizen
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University
Private Citizen
Private Citizen
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University
Private Citizen
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University
River Management Society
Northern Arizona University
Northern Arizona University
Private Citizen
Sierra Club